Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user comprising the steps of:

(a)   presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b)   masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the entire visual test stimulus, wherein the mask comprises an image having at least one filled circle;

(c)   measuring a response from the user, the response providing information about (i) the user's perception of a characteristic of the test stimulus, and (ii) a response time taken for the user to respond;

(d)   repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile; and

(e)   comparing the user profile with a reference profile, and thereby assessing cognitive impairment in the user.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) comprises repeating steps (a) to (c) for a range of pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein step (a) comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, comprising calculating, for each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration of step (a), a representative error rate that represents a proportion of responses measured in step (c) which are inaccurate.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the user profile of (d) comprises an error rate curve charting the representative error rate relative to pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4 wherein calculating the representative error rate comprises calculating a mean error for responses at each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, comprising calculating, for each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration, a mean response time .

8.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the user profile of (d) comprises a response rate curve charting mean response time relative to pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein repetitions of step (a) are separated by a uniform time interval.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reference profile is generated from data that are selected from the group consisting of:

(a)   data obtained from a reference group comprising cognitively normal individuals, and

(b)   data previously generated by the user.

11.　(Previously Presented)　The method according to claim 1, wherein the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration is between 10 ms and 300 ms.

12.　(Previously Presented)　The method according to claim 1, wherein the user has a choice of two different responses for responding to each test stimulus.

13.　(Previously Presented)　The method according to claim 12, wherein one of two or more different test stimuli are presented to the user in step (a).

14.　(Previously Presented)　The method according to claim 13, wherein each of the test stimuli are presented an equal number of times.

15.　(Canceled)

16.　(Previously Presented)　The method according to claim 1, wherein the mask comprises an image having a plurality of filled circles or parts thereof.

17.　(Canceled)

18.　(Previously Presented)　A method of assessing visual impairment of a user, comprising the steps of:

　　　(a)　presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

　　　(b)　masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the entire visual test stimulus, wherein the mask comprises an image having at least one filled circle;

　　　(c)　measuring a response from the user, the response providing information about (i) the user's perception of specific characteristics of the test stimulus, and (ii) response time taken for the user to respond;

(d)   repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile, wherein the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration has a duration equal to the duration of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration of (a); and

(e)   comparing the user profile with a reference profile to assess visual impairment of the user.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein step (a) comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

20.   (Previously Presented) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user, comprising the steps of:

(a)   presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b)   masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the entire visual test stimulus, wherein the mask comprises an image having at least one filled circle;

(c)   measuring a response from the user, the response comprising:

i.   a response time; and

ii.   either a correct or an incorrect indication of the visual test stimulus;

(d)   repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile; and

(e)   comparing the user profile to a reference profile to assess cognitive impairment in the user.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein step (a) comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

22.　(Previously Presented)　A system for assessing cognitive impairment of a user, comprising:

(a)　presentation means for presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b)　mask means for masking or replacing the entire test stimulus after presentation of the test stimulus to the user, wherein the mask means comprises an image having at least one filled circle;

(c)　response measuring means for measuring a response from the user after presentation of the visual test stimulus;

(d)　processing means for processing the response from the user over one or a range of pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations to develop a user profile over the range; and

(e)　assessment means for comparing the user profile to a reference profile to assess cognitive impairment in the user.

23.　(Previously Presented)　The system according to claim 22 further comprising focal point presentation means for presenting a focal point stimulus to the user.

24.　(Previously Presented)　The system according to claim 22 wherein the mask comprises an image having a plurality of filled circles or parts thereof.

25.　(Previously Presented)　The method according to any one of claims 1, 18 and 20, wherein the user profile comprises a response curve.